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Economic and Social Council

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New York, 2-27 July 2012
Agenda item 1
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Election to fill a vacancy in the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In a letter dated 7 March 2012, Eibe **Riedel** (Germany) notified the Secretary-General, through the Chair of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, of his decision to resign as a member of the Committee, with immediate effect. Mr. Riedel's term of office was due to expire on 31 December 2014. The present members of the Committee are listed in annex III to the report of the Economic and Social Council for 2011 (A/66/3/Rev.1).

2. In a note verbale dated 11 April 2012, the Secretary-General informed the States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights from Western European and other States of Mr. Riedel's resignation. In accordance with paragraphs (b) and (c) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985 and rule 12 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Secretary-General invited the Governments concerned to submit, by 11 June, their nominations for membership in the Committee to fill the vacancy therein for the remainder of Mr. Riedel's term of office.

3. As at 11 June 2012, the Secretary-General had received the nomination of Maria Virginia **Bras Gomes**, submitted by the Government of Portugal. Biographical information on Ms. Bras Gomes is presented in the annex to the present note.

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Annex

Curriculum vitae*

Maria Virginia Bras Gomes (Portugal)

Date and place of birth

10 March 1951

Goa, India

Working languages

English/French

Education

Bachelor of Arts (English Special), Bombay University, India

Diplôme d'Etudes Françaises, University of Toulouse, France

Salzburg Seminar Scholar at the 298th session on managing non-governmental organizations

Four-month training in the field of social services in the United States of America, at the University of Western Michigan and in community services

Professional activities

Social Policy Adviser to the Director-General for Social Security

Coordination of and/or participation in the preparation of reports on the implementation of international instruments (European Union, Council of Europe, United Nations)

Coordination of and/or participation in interdepartmental and multidisciplinary groups on several aspects of policies and practices in the fields of social security, social protection, social development, social action and international relations

Participation as a national and international expert in conferences, seminars and meetings

Ministerial appointments to carry out special missions

Activities in the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2007/2010 mandate)

Co-Rapporteur for general comment 19, on the right to social security

Rapporteur for the revised guidelines for national reports on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Vice-Chair (2009/2010)

* Curricula vitae are issued without formal editing.

Current position

Senior Social Policy Adviser in the Ministry of Solidarity and Social Security, Portugal

Training activities

United Nations treaty body system; core human rights instruments; economic, social and cultural rights; women's rights and international cooperation for professionals in the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity, universities, human rights institutions and non-governmental organization training programmes

Faculty member of the Nottingham University Human Rights Law Centre Summer School, 2008

Speaker at the United Nations Development Programme Global Human Rights Community of Practice meeting, 2009

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights training on reporting to the United Nations human rights treaty bodies (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) in Senegal and Cape Verde, 2010 and the Gambia, 2011

Facilitator at one of the sessions of the Bossey consultation (Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families) on strengthening the treaty body system, 2011

Faculty member of the Leadership Institute of the Programme on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 2011 and 2012

Presentations, papers and articles

Presentations and papers on various aspects of economic, social and cultural rights and socioeconomic policies and practices, including, most recently, "Human rights of older persons: policy or implementation gap", presented at the fifth Warsaw Seminar on Human Rights, September 2011 and "Inclusion strategies in times of democratic transition: the Portuguese experience", presented in Tunisia, at the invitation of the International Labour Organization, September 2011.

Selected articles:

- "The future of economic, social and cultural rights" and "Individualization and the crumbling of the welfare state", Palgrave Macmillan
- "Human rights and development: the two sides of the same coin", Iboorberg Verlag GmbH & Co, KG
- "Multicultural Europe: combating racism and intolerance", French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights
- "Global financial and economic crisis and its impacts on women: a human rights perspective" (awaiting publication)

Memberships

Board of Trustees of the European Roma Rights Centre Foundation

International Board of the Programme on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

High-level advisory group on de-institutionalization, European Social Network

Board of the Portuguese Committee for the United Nations Children's Fund

National Commission for Human Rights, Portugal